



PLACER COUNTY
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PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: **Wednesday, September 06, 2006 / 3:30 PM**
Date/Time of Occurrence: **Wednesday, September 06, 2006 /12:30 AM**
Nature of Call: **Missing Campers Located**
Location of Call: **Mosquito Ridge Area, Foresthill**
Case Number:
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant (530) 889-7862**

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Five campers who had been reported as missing were located by U.S. Forest Service Smokejumpers in the area of the Ralston Fire east of Foresthill.

The five people, John Ray, 39, his brother Peter Ray, 37, his daughter Valerie Ray, 9, and Gina Sutton, 39, and her daughter Lyndee Sutton, 6, were reported as missing to the Citrus Heights Police Department. Citrus Heights contacted the Placer County Sheriff's Department on Monday, September 4 with information that the missing may be at the Bear River Campground in the Colfax area. Placer deputies checked that campground and others but did not locate them.

On Tuesday, September 5, Citrus Heights again contacted Placer with information that the missing people may be in the Foresthill area. Placer County launched their helicopter and flew the Foresthill area but did not locate any vehicles associated with the group.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, September 6, U.S. Forest Service Smokejumpers located the group in the area of the Ralston Fire east of Foresthill. All parties were flown out of the area by CHP helicopter and were taken to Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital. Gina Sutton suffered minor back injuries and the two young girls showed signs of mild exposure.

U.S. Forest Service officials are conducting an investigation to see if any of the group has any knowledge of the fire's origin.